

and the longer anal fin with 15 to 17 rays. This genus is founded on *Oxydoras acipenserinus*, Gthr., and

Leptodoras juruensis.

No teeth. Depth of body 9 times in total length, length of head 5 times. Head $1\frac{1}{3}$ as long as broad, covered with skin, except on the occiput; snout depressed, pointed; posterior nostril equally distant from the anterior and from the centre of the eye; eye in posterior half of head, its diameter 3 times in length of snout, equal to interorbital width; occiput and occipito-nuchal shield granulated and striated; bases of the six barbels united by the fold of the lower jaw; maxillary barbel branched, not $\frac{1}{2}$ length of head, not reaching gill-opening; latter extending to below centre of eye. Humeral process striated, not $\frac{1}{2}$ as long as pectoral spine. Dorsal I 5, spine very feebly serrated in front, much produced beyond the soft rays, twice as long as head. Adipose fin very small. Anal V 12, its base $2\frac{1}{2}$ as long as that of the dorsal. Pectoral spine $\frac{3}{4}$ length of head, reaching base of ventral, with very strong serræ, especially on the inner side. Ventral a little shorter than pectoral. Lateral shields 44, not measuring $\frac{1}{2}$ the depth of the body, with serrated posterior border and very strong hooked spine. Caudal deeply bifurcate. Brown; pectoral, ventral, and adipose fins, and base of dorsal and anal, blackish.

Total length 235 millim.

A single specimen formed part of a small collection made in the Jurua River by Capt. Martins, and sent to me by Dr. Goeldi. This collection contained besides examples of two species not previously recorded from that river, viz. *Prochilodus insignis*, Schomb., and *Aphyocharax pusillus*, Gthr.

L. juruensis differs from *L. acipenserinus* in the more elongate body, the smooth snout and opercles, the smaller eye, the shorter maxillary barbel, the longer dorsal spine, and the smaller lateral shields.

LIX.—*A Revision of the Pierine Butterflies of the Genus Dercas*. By LIONEL DE NICÉVILLE, F.E.S., C.M.Z.S., &c.

THE name *Dercas* appears to have been a MS. name of Dr. Boisduval's; it first appeared in print in the 'Genera of Diurnal Lepidoptera,' vol. i. p. 70 (1847), and was briefly characterized, though not used in a generic sense, by Mr. Edward Doubleday, to whom, therefore, the genus should be credited, and not to Boisduval, as appears to have been more generally the custom.

In the 'Genera' Mr. Doubleday admits two species of the genus *Dercas*—No. 7, *Gonepteryx lycorias*, Doubleday, male only; and No. 8, *Gonepteryx Verhuellii* [recte *Verhuelli*], with *Rhodocera lycorias*, Doubleday, female only, as a synonym. With regard to *R. lycorias*, Dr. A. R. Wallace in 1867 wrote:—"Mr. Doubleday puts his *R. lycorias* ♀ as a synonym of *D. Verhuellii*, but retains *lycorias* ♂ as a distinct species from Sylhet. As no specimen answering to his description exists in the British Museum, or in any private collection with which I am acquainted, I am inclined to think that the specimen was probably compounded of the fore wings and body of *D. Verhuellii*, with the hind wings of a *Callidryas*" [= *Catopsilia*]. Mr. Hewitson in 1864 wrote:—"Gonepteryx lycorias [sic] of Doubleday does not differ from *G. Verhuellii*." Mr. W. F. Kirby, in his Syn. Cat., keeps *D. lycorias* distinct, but with the note "*An spec. fct.?*" Unfortunately the work in which *R. lycorias* is described is not to be found in the Calcutta libraries, so I propose to ignore the species altogether*.

The genus *Dercas* is found in the mountains of N.E. India (Nepal, Sikkim, and Bhutan), in Assam, Western, Central, and Southern China, Upper Burma (but not in Central and Southern Burma), in the Malay Peninsula, Sumatra, Java, and Borneo. Its headquarters would appear to be the Khasi Hills, as in that wonderfully rich region three species are found; Sikkim (and also probably Nepal and Bhutan, which are conterminous on either side of Sikkim) has two species; Southern China (Hongkong) has two species; the other regions one only. All the species appear to be extremely constant, and no seasonal dimorphism is known to occur in them. As far as is known they all inhabit large forests, except the species found in Hongkong, where no forest, strictly speaking, exists: when we took over that island from the Chinese it was bare of trees, but during the fifty-seven years of our occupation much has been done to reforest what was in 1841 almost entirely bare granite rocks. The Chinese have been well-named—though in joke—*Homo ligniperdus* by Mr. Sydney B. J. Skertchly, from their abominable wood-destroying characteristics.

* Since the above was put into type, Sir George F. Hampson, of the British Museum, has sent me very kindly a transcript of the description of *Rhodocera lycorias*, Doubleday (Gray's Zool. Misc. pp. 77, 78, fig. male, 1842), and a tracing of the figure, from which it is clearly evident that both sexes are synonymous with *Dercas Verhuelli*. The habitat given is "Silhet." In the description *D. Verhuelli* is not mentioned, so it may be safely assumed that Doubleday had never heard of it, or he would not have described his species.

The key to the species given below will enable anyone to easily recognize the various species.

- A. Of larger size; hind wing angulated, with a well-developed 'tail' at the termination of the third median nervule.
- a. Hind wing with no marginal orange mixed with black line.
 - a'. Fore wing on both sides with a large apical patch, black above, orange below.
 1. *D. Verhuelli*, van der Hoeven: N.E. Himalayas, Assam, Upper Burma, Southern China.
 - b'. Fore wing on both sides with no large apical patch.
 2. *D. Skertchlyi*, sp. n.: Southern China (Hongkong).
 - b. Hind wing with a marginal orange mixed with black line.
 3. *D. gobrias*, Hewitson: Malay Peninsula, Sumatra, Java, Borneo.

B. Of smaller size; hind wing rounded, without a 'tail.'

 - a. Fore wing with a large round black spot in the middle of the second median interspace.
 4. *D. Wallichii*, Doubleday: Sikkim, Khasi and Naga Hills, Assam.
 - b. Fore wing with no large round black spot in the middle of the second median interspace.
 - a'. Fore wing on the upperside with no apical and discal orange markings.
 5. *D. decipiens*, sp. n.: Khasi Hills.
 - b'. Fore wing on the upperside with the internal area of the apical black patch and a discal oblique fascia rich orange.
 6. *D. difformis*, sp. n.: Western and Central China.

1. *Dercas Verhuelli*, van der Hoeven.

Colias Verhuelli, van der Hoeven *, Tijdsch. voor Nat. Gesch. en Phys. vol. v. p. 341. n. 3, pl. vii. figs. 3 a, 3 b, female (1839). *Dercas Verhuelli*, Moore, Proc. Zool. Soc. Lond. 1865, p. 760; id., Elwes, Trans. Ent. Soc. Lond. 1888, p. 414. n. 372. *Gonepteryx Verhuellii* [sic!], Doubleday & Hewitson, Gen. Diurn. Lep. vol. i. p. 71. n. 8, pl. viii. fig. 3, male (1847). *Dercas Verhuellii*, Wallace, Trans. Ent. Soc. Lond. ser. 3, vol. iv. p. 398. n. 2 (1867); id., Butler, Cist. Ent. vol. i. pp. 36, 45, pl. ii. fig. 1, male (1870); id., Butler, Ann. & Mag. Nat. Hist. ser. 5, vol. xvi. p. 338. n. 83 (1885); id., Staudinger, Ex. Schmett. vol. i. p. 40, pl. xxii., male (1884-85); id., Schatz, Ex. Schmett. vol. ii. p. 68, pl. vii., male, palpus, and antenna (1886); id., Swinhoe, Trans. Ent. Soc. Lond. 1893, p. 308. n. 343; id., de Nicéville, Gazetteer of Sikkim, p. 167. n. 431 (1894); id., Watson, Journ. Bomb. Nat. Hist. Soc. vol. x. p. 671. n. 231 (1897); id., Adamson, Cat. Butt. Burmah, p. 42. n. 348 (1897).

Hab. China (*van der Hoeven*); Bengal (*Moore*); not uncommon in certain places in Sikkim up to 4000 feet from May to October (*Elwes*); China, N. India (*Doubleday*); N. India, Silhet (*Wallace*); Manipur, one pair (*Butler*); North India,

* Several writers—Staudinger, Schatz, Adamson, &c.—have attributed this species erroneously to Hewitson.

China (*Staudinger*); Khasia Hills, common (*Swinhoe*); Sikkim, local, but where it occurs abundant, found at about 4000 feet from May to October (*de Nicéville*); two specimens from the Chin Hills, 3500 feet, in the rains (*Watson*); rare in Burmah, one specimen captured in April at Tounggya Sekkan (*Adamson*); Sikkim, Jorhat, Sibsagar, Khasi Hills, Hongkong (*coll. de Nicéville*).

This species was originally described from China, probably from specimens obtained at Hongkong or close by in the Canton district. At Hongkong it does not appear to be very rare; Mr. E. F. Skertchly has sent me a good series taken in May. No species of *Dercas* is given by Mr. J. J. Walker in "A Preliminary List of the Butterflies of Hong-Kong" (Trans. Ent. Soc. Lond. 1895, pp. 433-477).

2. *Dercas Skertchlyi*, sp. n.

Hab. Hongkong, South China.

Expanse.—♂ 2·9, ♀ 3·2 inches.

Description.—*Male and female*. Differs from *D. Verhuelli*, van der Hoeven, in the fore wing lacking on both surfaces the large apical patch which is such a marked characteristic of that species; in *D. Skertchlyi* the costa from about the middle to the apex of the wing, and thence as far as the termination of the first median nervule, has a narrow black border of about equal breadth throughout. Otherwise the two species do not differ.

D. Skertchlyi cannot be a seasonal form of *D. Verhuelli*, as both species fly together in Hongkong in May, which is the only month in which Mr. E. F. Skertchly, after whom I have much pleasure in naming the species, has obtained it. It seems to be fairly common on the island, though I did not meet with it myself on the two occasions I was there.

3. *Dercas gobjrias*, Hewitson.

Gonepteryx gobjrias, Hewitson, Trans. Ent. Soc. Lond. ser. 3, vol. ii. p. 246. n. 5, pl. xvi. fig. 1, *male* (1864); id., Butler, Proc. Zool. Soc. Lond. 1865, p. 432. n. 4, pl. xxv. fig. 4, *male*. *Rhodocera gobjrias*, Vollenhoven, Faune Ent. l'Arch. Indo-Néerl., Piérides, p. 63. n. 1 (1865). *Dercas gobjrias*, Wallace, Trans. Ent. Soc. Lond. ser. 3, vol. iv. p. 398. n. 1 (1867); id., Druce, Proc. Zool. Soc. Lond. 1873, p. 356; id., Distant, Rhop. Malay. p. 308. n. 1, pl. xxvi. fig. 18, *male* (1885); id., Distant & Pryer, Ann. & Mag. Nat. Hist. ser. 5, vol. xix. p. 271. n. 152 (1887); id., de Nicéville & Martin, Journ. A. S. B. vol. lxiv. pt. 2, p. 500. n. 550 (1896).

Hab. Borneo (*Hewitson*); Borneo (*Butler*); Borneo (*Vollenhoven*); Sumatra, Borneo (*Wallace*); Borneo (*Druce*);

Province Wellesley, Perak, Sumatra, Java, Borneo (*Distant*) ; Northern Borneo, not common (*Distant & Pryer*) ; is rather rare in North-eastern Sumatra, and occurs from Bekantschan to the Central Plateau. Collectors never bring in more than two or three specimens at one time. We have specimens caught from February to August only (*de Nicéville & Martin*) ; Perak, N.E. Sumatra, N. & S.E. Borneo (*coll. de Nicéville*).

This is a very well-marked species. Mr. Distant has alone recorded it from Java, where it is probably rare.

4. *Dercas Wallichii*, Doubleday.

Gonepteryx Wallichii, Doubleday, Proc. Ent. Soc. Lond. ser. 1, vol. v. p. xlvii (1849). *Rhodocera Wallichii*, Butler, Proc. Zool. Soc. Lond. 1866, p. 452. *Dercas Wallichii*, Wallace, Trans. Ent. Soc. Lond. ser. 3, vol. iv. p. 398. n. 3 (1867). ? *Dercas Wallichii*, Elwes, Proc. Zool. Soc. Lond. 1882, p. 402; id., Elwes, Trans. Ent. Soc. Lond. 1888, p. 415. n. 373; id., Swinhoe, Trans. Ent. Soc. Lond. 1893, p. 308. n. 344; id., de Nicéville, Gazetteer of Sikkim, p. 167. n. 432 (1894). *Gonepteryx urania*, Butler, Proc. Zool. Soc. Lond. 1865, p. 458. n. 5, pl. xxvi. fig. 5, female. *Dercas urania*, Swinhoe, Trans. Ent. Soc. Lond. 1893, p. 308. n. 345.

Hab. North India (*Doubleday*) ; North India (*Butler*) ; N. India (*Wallace*) ; Sikkim, Khasias (*Elwes*) ; many examples, Khasia Hills (*Swinhoe*) ; Sikkim, Khasi Hills (*de Nicéville*) ; *urania*, Northern India (*Butler*) ; *urania*, several examples, Khasia Hills (*Swinhoe*) ; Lachung Valley in Native Sikkim, Khasi Hills, Upper Assam (*coll. de Nicéville*).

As far back as 1866 Dr. A. G. Butler sunk his *G. urania* under *R. Wallichii*, in which he has been followed by all writers except Col. Swinhoe, who in 1893 raises *D. urania* to specific rank, and notes :—" Kirby puts it as a synonym of the preceding [*D. Wallichii*], but I think it must be a good species, having never seen any intermediates." The specimens Col. Swinhoe refers to are probably *D. decipiens*, mihi, and he could not have looked up the literature on these species when he wrote this note. *G. urania* is undoubtedly a synonym of *D. Wallichii*. The home of this species in Sikkim has now been found, Herr Paul Möwis having obtained many specimens through his native collectors from the Lachung Valley. Mr. W. Doherty notes in Proc. Zool. Soc. Lond. 1891, p. 251, that he obtained a large set of *D. Wallichii* at or near Mao, Manipur, and that it is curiously like *Gonepteryx zaneke* [not *zaneeka*], Moore, of the North-west Himalayas. It flew in June and disappeared in July. Through the kindness of Mr. H. J. Elwes I have several of these Manipuri specimens in my collection. Dr. Butler notes

in 1866 that *R. Wallichii* "has been for years confounded with a smaller insect described last year by Mr. F. Moore," this species being *G. zanea* probably.

5. *Dercas decipiens*, sp. n.

Hab. Khasi Hills.

Expanse.—♂ 2·2–2·4 inches.

Description.—*Male*. Differs from both sexes of *D. Wallichii*, Doubleday, in the absence of the large round spot placed in the middle of the second median interspace of the fore wing, touching the second and third median nervules, and which is black above and reddish below; in all other respects the two species are the same.

I have this species only from the Khasi Hills, where it appears to be quite as common as *D. Wallichii*, Doubleday, the Rev. Walter A. Hamilton having kindly sent me many examples of both from thence, obtained by his native collectors. As they occur synchronously, one species cannot be merely a seasonal form of the other.

6. *Dercas difformis*, sp. n.

Dercas Wallichii, Leech [nec Doubleday], Butt. from China, Japan, and Corea, vol. ii. p. 445, pl. xxxv. fig. 3, *male* (1893).

Hab. Western and Central China.

Expanse.—♂ 2·5 inches.

Description.—"Chinese specimens of *D. Wallichii*, Doubleday, are rather larger than those from India. In the male the costa towards the apex is marked with red, and there is an oblique streak of the same colour, interrupted by the nervules, from the apical black patch. The underside is identical with that of Indian specimens of the same sex. The females from both countries are alike. Fairly common throughout Central and Western China at moderate elevations; the female is scarcer than the male." (*Leech, l. c.*)

Mr. Leech described this species as above, but compared it with *D. Wallichii*, which has the round spot in the second median interspace of the fore wing on both surfaces, which spot is entirely absent from *D. difformis* and *D. decipiens*, mihi. From the male of the latter species it differs in the male in having the apex of the fore wing much less produced, in the presence of a rich orange suffusion within the black apical area of the fore wing on the upperside, and also of an oblique discal orange fascia running from the apex of the wing to the first median nervule. In size it is rather larger

than *D. decipiens*, and has the outer margin of the hind wing still more evenly rounded, with no trace of a projection at the apex of the third median nervule.

I possess three males of this very distinct species from Moupin, sent me by M. Charles Oberthür.

Indian Museum, Calcutta,
July 12th, 1898.

LX.—*A new Species of Shrew from Ashantee.*

By W. E. DE WINTON.

AMONG a few small mammals lately presented to the British Museum by Capt. W. Giffard, who collected them in Ashantee, is a very striking shrew, of such intense rich seal-brown colour that it appears almost black. I am indebted to Mr. Oldfield Thomas, who has kindly handed the collection over to me for description, and I have pleasure in associating the name of the discoverer with this fine new form, which may be described as follows:—

Crocidura (Cr.) Giffardi, sp. n.

The head and body above and below, with the legs and feet, dark seal-brown or brown-black; tail coal-black.

Measurements taken from the dried skin:—

Head and body (c.) 130 millim.; tail (c.) 100; hind foot without claws (c.) 23; from the nose to the termination of the thick body-fur 145; the thinly haired portion of the tail 85.

Measurements of skull:—

Greatest length 36.1 millim.; breadth 15; narrowest across interorbital constriction 7.1; basal length 33.7; front of incisors to back of palate 18.5; tooth-row 17; tip of incisors to tip of large premolar 8; greatest breadth across ^{ms. 2} 11.5. Mandible: length 23.9; height, angle to coronoid 11.6.

Type (♀) no. 98. 10. 24. 5 in the British Museum.

Collected by W. Giffard, 30th June, 1898, at Morsi, 600 feet, on the way to Kumassi. "Found dead."

This shrew is one of the largest true *Crociduras* known; its colour alone is sufficient to distinguish it from any other species.

Compared with *C. Manni* the skull is much larger in every measurement, and proportionately broader in the facial portion; the palate is broader and the teeth throughout much